



Motorist's Guide
To Some
Historic Spots and Towns
Along The
National Old Trails Road

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INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*"To the many Descendants who may
retrace their forefathers' hazardous
journeys westward.*



MADONNA OF THE TRAIL

MOTORIST'S GUIDE

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HISTORIC SPOTS *and* TOWNS

Along the NATIONAL OLD TRAILS ROAD

Compiled by

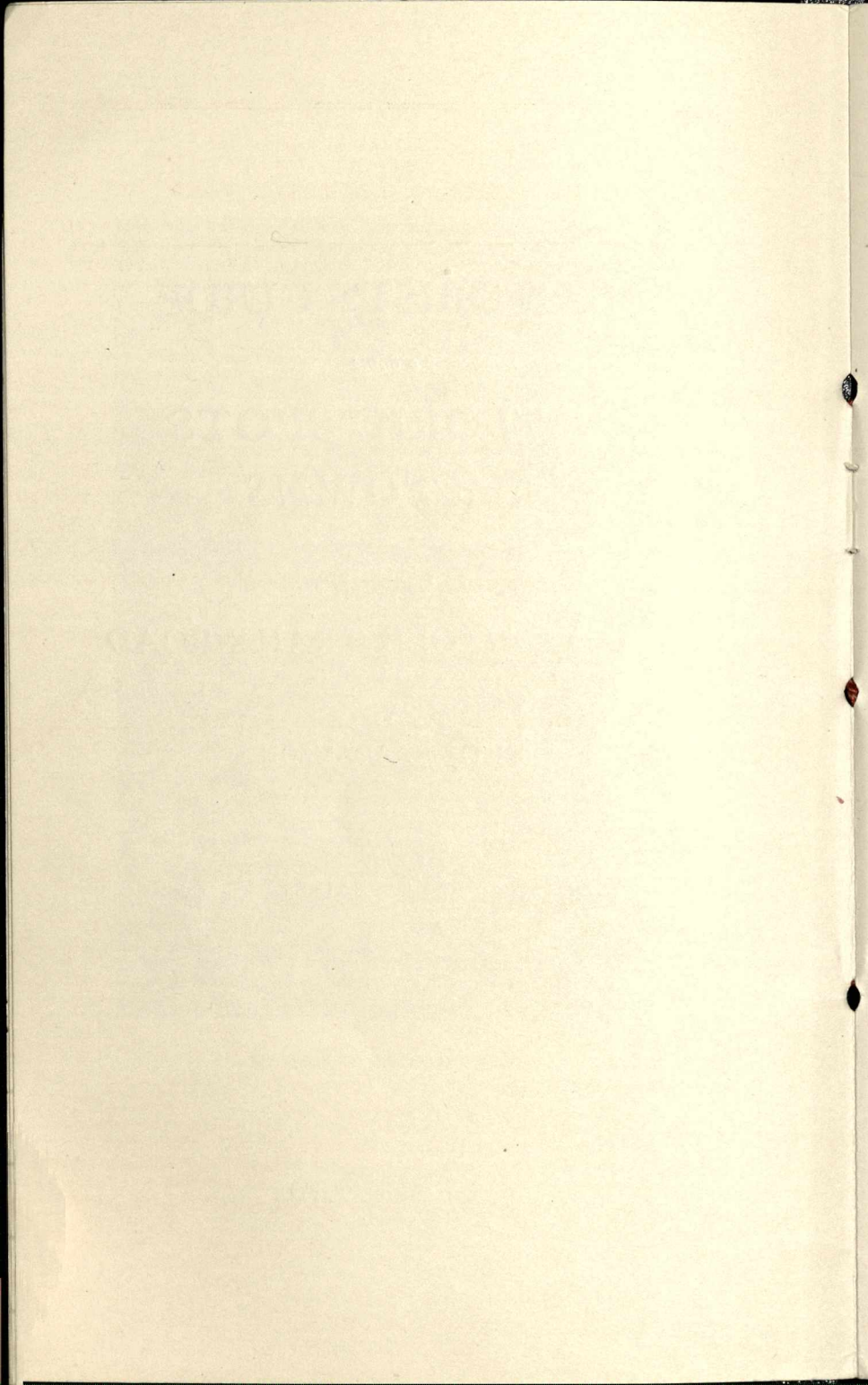
RUTH E. ADAMSON

Map by

EARLE O. PRATER

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FORT HARRISON CHAPTER
D. A. R.



THE NATIONAL OLD TRAILS ROAD

The National Old Trails Road, formerly called the National Road and first known as the Cumberland Road was the first road to receive Government support. During Thomas Jefferson's administration, the project was begun in 1816—then the road to Wheeling, West Virginia, was not opened for use until 1818 or finished to Vandalia, Illinois, until 1840.

Today U. S. 40 is the best route to travel from Coast to Coast. Taking St. Louis as the starting point for a trip, east, it is 822 miles to Washington, D. C.

00.0—St. Louis. The city is named for Louis XV of France. It is built on a site once occupied by mound builders. The old court house where slaves were auctioned on the steps, is still in existence. This locality was the scene of "the Crisis", a Civil War story, by Winston Churchill. Crossing the Mississippi river on the Free Bridge, the state of Illinois is entered at East St. Louis.

Illinois. It is 172 miles across the state.

74.0—Vandalia. The terminal of the National Road in 1840; 800 miles from Fort Cumberland, Maryland. State Capitol from 1819 to 1839. In the courthouse, Abraham Lincoln attended the state legislature, the window through which he jumped may be seen. The Madonna of the Trail, the D.A.R. monument is here, the inscription reads:

"The Cumberland Road built by Federal Government, was authorized by Congress, and approved by Thomas Jefferson in 1806. Vandalia marks the Western terminus."

"At Vandalia, Abraham Lincoln, member of Illinois legislature, first formulated those high principles of freedom and justice, which gave the slaves a Liberator, the Union a Saviour."

107.0—Effingham.

158.0—Marshall. County Seat. Parking allowed in the center of the street as well as along the curb, street is so wide. Illinois road No. 1 crosses U. S. 40.

Illinois state line is crossed and marked 9 miles east. Wabash River is crossed 7 miles from the state line. River is celebrated in the history of the Northwest territory. Tecumseh and his tribesmen, the French voyageurs and missionaries, Wm. Henry Harrison and many pioneers traversed the river.

Indiana state song is "On the banks of the Wabash" written by Paul Dresser, a Terre Hautean.

174.5—Terre Haute. (High Land) 1816. Vigo County seat. Court House, the bell is inscribed:

"By his will \$500 of the cost of the bell were presented by Francis Vigo to County, Indiana, A. D. 1887". Monument to Civil war soldiers and sailors is in the Court House yard. Two blocks further, on the left side, the north east corner, a Granite marker with drinking fountain tells:

"To
 Claude L. Herbert
 Who gave his life to save
 others in the
 Havens and Geddes fire
 This memorial is erected
 by his comrades
 of the
 Spanish-American War
 and patriotic citizens."

Road U. S. 41 crosses U. S. 40 at Seventh Street. Site of Terre Haute House has been occupied by a tavern since 1838. Battle of Fort Harrison was fought Sept. 4, 1812, two miles north.

Rose Polytechnic Institute (Engineering school).

Boulder honors Herman and Anton Hulman who gave the ground on which the school is built.

Viaduct over railroad.

Revolutionary Soldier Walter Dickerson is buried in the grove of trees to right. The Grave is marked.

191.0—Brazil 1844. Clay County seat. Museum is in the court
 *16.0 house. McKinley Tavern. Built in 1832, the bricks were made from clay on the land, the timber cut on the land. Famous guests have been Abraham Lincoln, Martin Van Buren, Henry Clay, James Buchanan.

206.0—Putnamville. Named for Gen. Isaac Putnam. Van
 31.0 Buren was upset near here. The old Indian trail followed the stream.

212.0—Mount Meridian. Half-way house originally built by Wil-
 37.0 liam Heaven in 1826. When the National Road was built this house became the inn, since then has been known as the "Halfway House". It is situated half-way between Terre Haute and Indianapolis; St. Louis, Mo. and Columbus, Ohio; Kansas City, Mo. and Pittsburgh, Pa. During stage coach days the huge barn accommodated four coaches. East first floor room is the original house. East upstairs room is known as the Lincoln room. Abraham Lincoln stopped here when traveling through Indiana. Henry Ward Beecher, while living in Indianapolis, visited this house in 1843. His letters gave his delightful impressions of the house and garden.

233.0—Plainfield. "The town of friendly folks." Settled by
 58.0 Quakers. Quaker church still in use, two doors, one for men and one for the women. Beautiful old trees on the grounds. By the roadside, stood the Van Buren elm, so called because President Van Buren, who had vetoed a measure for highway improvement, was upset under the tree and thrown into the mud, while on an inspection trip. The older part of the tree was blown down during a severe storm in June 1929. A marker has been placed by the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter D. A. R. on this tree.

247.6—Indianapolis 1819. County seat of Marion county. State
 72.5 Capitol since 1824. 56 miles from the center of population of the United States.

Mt. Jackson—home of Sarah Bolton—now Central State Hospital. Row of trees to building planted by Mr. Bolton to celebrate the birth of his son.

"The circling sunlight never spanned
 The border of a better land
 Than our Indiana."—Sarah K. Bolton.

*Light face figures give local mileage.

White River—West end of the bridge, on the right, boulder with bronze tablet marking.

"Flood prevention levee and boulevard erected 1915-1917."

On the left side, east end of the bridge is a marker:

"Here stood the cabin of John McCormick One of the first settlers In central Indiana the Commission appointed by the legislature to select a site for the new seat of government of the State of Indiana met in this cabin on the 7th of June, 1820 and decided upon location for the town afterward named Indianapolis."

It is difficult to see this. State house on left. Statue in yard of Thomas A. Hendricks, Robert Dale Owen, Oliver P. Morton, and others. The drinking fountain was erected as a monument. The tablet inscription reads:

"The National Road.

Cumberland, Md. to Terre Haute, Ind. 1806-1839."

"Indiana Centennial, 1816-1916."

"In memory of the brave men and women who toiled amid many dangers and laid the foundation of the common-wealth of Indiana."

Erected by the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter D. A. R."

At the next corner, one block east, on the Claypool Hotel there is a bronze tablet near the door, commemorating Abraham Lincoln's visit and speech in Feb. 1861 while enroute to Washington for his first inauguration.

Looking to the left at the next street intersection, Meridan and Washington streets, the Monument and circle are seen. This is one of the finest monuments in the country dedicated to the Soldiers and Sailors of earlier wars. It was built in 1887-1901 at the cost of \$600,000. While further north on Meridan Street is the World War Memorial. Concrete monument marks the old Michigan trail at the crossing of U. S. 31 with U. S. 40 at South-eastern avenue.

Irvington. Is the former location of Butler University.

257.5—Cumberland. Founded in 1829 and named for the road.
10.5

267.5—Greenfield. Settled in 1828. Hancock County. Home of
20.5 James Whitcomb Riley is marked with tablet by the door. Court house on the right. Statue of Riley "Erected by the pennies of American School Children", in yard.

*Upon the main street, and the main highway.

From East to West, historic in its day,

Known as the National Road.

* * *

The reminiscent first inhabitants

Will make that old road blossom with romance

Of snowy caravans in long parade

Of covered vehicles of every grade

From ox-cart of most primitive design

To Conestoga wagons with their fine

Deep chested teams."—Child World by James W. Riley.

281.5—Knightstown. Boulder with tablet on left of road:
34.5

Site of first house erected in Knightstown by
Waitsell McClarey. Placed by Major Hugh Dinwoodie
Chapter. D. A. R.

From The Biographical Edition of the Complete Works
of James Whitcomb Riley. Copyright, 1913. Used by
special permission of the publishers, The Bobbs-Merrill
Company.

301.0—Cambridge City. Was started in 1835 by moving the
54.0 buildings from Vandalia, which was not on the highway
to this location.

310.0—Centerville 1828. Home of many prominent persons.
63.0 Oliver P. Morton, Civil War Governor and later, U. S.
Senator. Rev. Joseph Tarkington, the grand father of
Booth Tarkington, Meredith Nicholson's grandparents.
Ancestral kin of President Hoover.

Clear Creek. Near this stream, President Van Buren
encountered another up-setting incident, when the double-
tree of his coach, having been partly sawed, broke and
threw him into the mud.

Marker on the left near fence.

"This Tablet marks the Boundary Line Between Govern-
ment and Indian Lands fixed by General Anthony Wayne
and Twelve Tribes of Indians, in the Greenville Treaty
1795. *****

The Site of Saulsbury 1 mile South east—the first County
Seat of Wayne County. The birth place of Oliver P.
Morton War Governor of Indiana. Erected by Richmond
Indiana Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution,
1924.

315.0—Richmond 1816. Wayne County Seat. Kiwanis Club
68.0 have marked a trail for visitors wishing to tour the city.
Earlham College—a Quaker institution—is near the west
entrance into the city. In the Glen Miller Park, east side
of the town, is the Madonna of the Trail, National Society
of the D. A. R., memorial.

"To the Pioneer Mother of the Covered Wagon days,
First toll gate of Indiana stood near this site
On the National Road."
"A Nation's Highway
Once a wilderness trail
Over which hardy Pioneers made their perilous way
Seeking new homes in the dense forests
Of the Great North-West."

Three miles to the Ohio State Line.

Crosses mark the scenes of fatal accidents.

Ohio. There are 232 miles of the Road in this state,
more than in any other state.

332.0—Eaton. County Seat of Preble County. In the Court
17.0 House is one of the few original milestones placed on the
Road through Ohio. The old Road passed through
Lewisburg, Englewood, Vandalia, and Brandt. New sec-
tion passes through Dayton.

356.0—Dayton. Settled in 1796 by Revolutionary soldiers. Na-
24.0 tional Military Home is here on the western side of the
city.

Great Miami River caused disastrous flood in 1913. First
library in the state to be incorporated 1805. The old
Court House, a striking example of good architecture
stands beside the new building. Two blocks from Third
and Main Streets is a park. Here stands the first cabin
built in Dayton. It is now a museum. There is a monu-
ment at the intersection of Main Street and Monument
Avenue. Dayton is the home of the Wright brothers, the
late Orville and Wilbur, Pioneers of Aviation. Via the
original road from Richmond.

Englewood. Cross "One of five dams built by the Miami Conservancy for Flood Control."

Vandalia. Junction of U. S. 25 with U. S. 40.

368.0—**Brandt.** Junction of Ohio 201 with U. S. 40.
12.0

382.5—**Springfield.** Madonna of the Trail stands on a knoll in
26.5 the grounds of the State Masonic Home. Site is near
the birthplace of Tecumseh.

Inscription gives the information:

"The National Road—completed by the Federal Government to this point in 1839. From this point westward built by the state through which it passes."

"Three miles south west of here General George Rogers Clark commanding Kentucky Frontiersmen vanquished the Shawnee confederacy August 8, 1780, resulting in opening the Northwest Territory."

Wittenburg College, (Lutheran) is in this city.

426.5—**Columbus 1812.** County seat of Franklin County. State

44.0 Capitol. Cross Scioto River. Capitol building is in a 10
acre park. William McKinley statue and memorial arch.
Monument "Our Jewels" has statues of Grant, Sheridan,
Garfield, Hayes, Sherman, Stanton, Chase. In the building
is a mural by W. H. Powell depicting "Perry's victory
on Lake Erie".

Across from the Capitol, is the Neil House built on the
site of the first tavern in Columbus, 1822, by Neil.
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building is in Broad
Street. Fort Hayes, U. S. Army post is located in the
eastern section. Ohio State University has been placed
here.

474.0—**Bridge.** Six miles west of Zanesville, built by Federal
47.5 Government, 1830 Tablet inscribed:

"The policy of the Nation;
Reciprocity at home and abroad."

478.0—**Y Bridge.** Two miles west of Zanesville. Over the
51.5 Muskingum River, said to be the only one of this kind in
the United States.

480.0—**Zanesville.** Founded in 1799 by Jonathan Zane and other
53.5 friends. Post Office established in 1802. State Capital
1810-1812.

512.5—**Washington.** Called occasionally, "Old Washington".
86.0 Colonial Inn, former home of a Congressman of 1860,
who made his trips to Washington, D. C. on horseback.
The house, built in the '60s has beautiful ceilings, stair-
way and chandeliers.

One antique shop has an interesting collection of clocks
and beds.

517.5—**S Bridge.** Built for the old road and still in use, is
91.0 crossed five miles east of Washington.

552.5—**Bridgeport.** Toll is collected to cross the oldest suspen-
126.0 sion bridge in the U. S. over the Ohio River into

553.5—**Wheeling, West Virginia.** West Virginia has only six-
127.0 teen miles of the National Old Trails Road.

553.5—**Wheeling.** Col. Ebenezer Zane and his brothers settled
0.0 here in 1769. The oldest town on the Ohio River. U. S.
40 follows a steep ascending road, near summit is the
marker to Major Samuel McCollough, who in 1777 while

on relief for Fort Henry (built 1774), forced his horse over the precipice down 300 feet to the creek, escaping safely from the Indians. Madonna of the Trail stands by the roadside in Wheeling Park. The legend reads:

"By the authority of the United States Government and chiefly through the statesmanship of Henry Clay this road was made possible in 1806."

"To the Pioneer Mothers of our Mountain State whose courage, optimism, love and sacrifice, made possible the National Highway that United the East and West."

Descending a hill, crossing over a bridge a left turn is made—in the angle to right is Monument Place—now below the level of the street, containing, the old stone mansion which was the Kruger home built before the Revolution. Gen. Lafayette was entertained here on his second visit to our country. The Henry Clay monument is also here. His coach was overturned in Main Street when his driver drove into a pile of limestone left unguarded. Clay remarked: "It was mixing Clay of Kentucky with the limestone of Penn."

Wheeling was the Capital of the state. 1863-1885. U. S. mail stage coaches began service in 1818 carrying mail to Washington, D. C.

Toll houses were built every fifteen miles with strong iron gates on massive iron or stone posts. Houses were built of brick west of the mountains and of stone in the east. Some of the houses are marked by the D. A. R.

Toll house. Fifteen miles east of Wheeling. Original mile posts stand between Wheeling and Cumberland, Md. State line is crossed at West Alexandria, Pa.

569.0—**Claysville.** There is an S. bridge near here.

15.5

575.0—**Pennsylvania.** The road covers 82 miles through this state. Toll gates numbered six, built in Pennsylvania in 1832.

585.0—**Washington, Pa.** Formerly called Basselville, 1784, in 1810 when the settlement became a town the name was changed. Home of Washington and Jefferson College. The "stogie" cigar was first made here for the use of the Conestoga wagon drivers, who carried the cigars in their boot tops.

Madonna of the Trail is near Beallsville, standing on ground by the Nemacolin Country Club. Commemorating

"On this historic spot—the hunting ground of the friendly Indian Nemacolin—this monument is erected and dedicated to the memory of our Pioneer Mothers."

"Erected in Nineteen Hundred Twenty-Eight in Washington County Pennsylvania.

The Oldest County West of the Alleghany Mountains for the Father of Our Country."

600.0—**Beallsville.** Old town named from the Beall family, settlers of Maryland in the early part of the seventeenth century. Near here, there is an old toll house. Monongahela River.

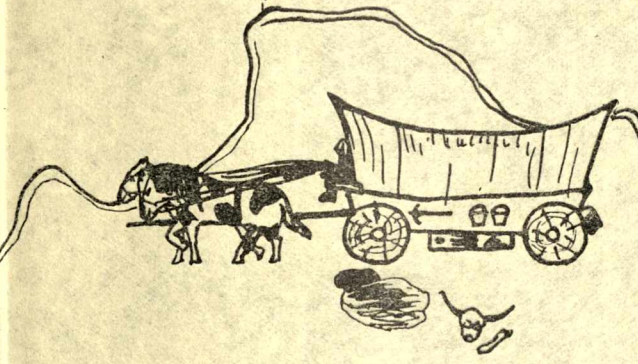
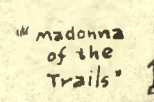
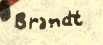
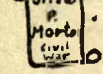
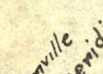
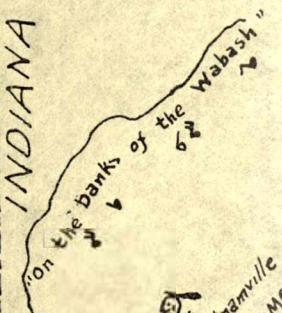
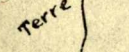
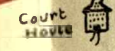
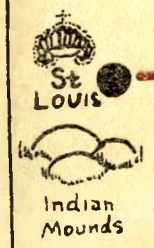
609.0—**Brownsville.** Upon the iron bridge, Henry Clay's coach was upset. Head of the steam boat traffic for passengers of the stages took passage on the river boats. Toll house four miles from Uniontown now used as a house.

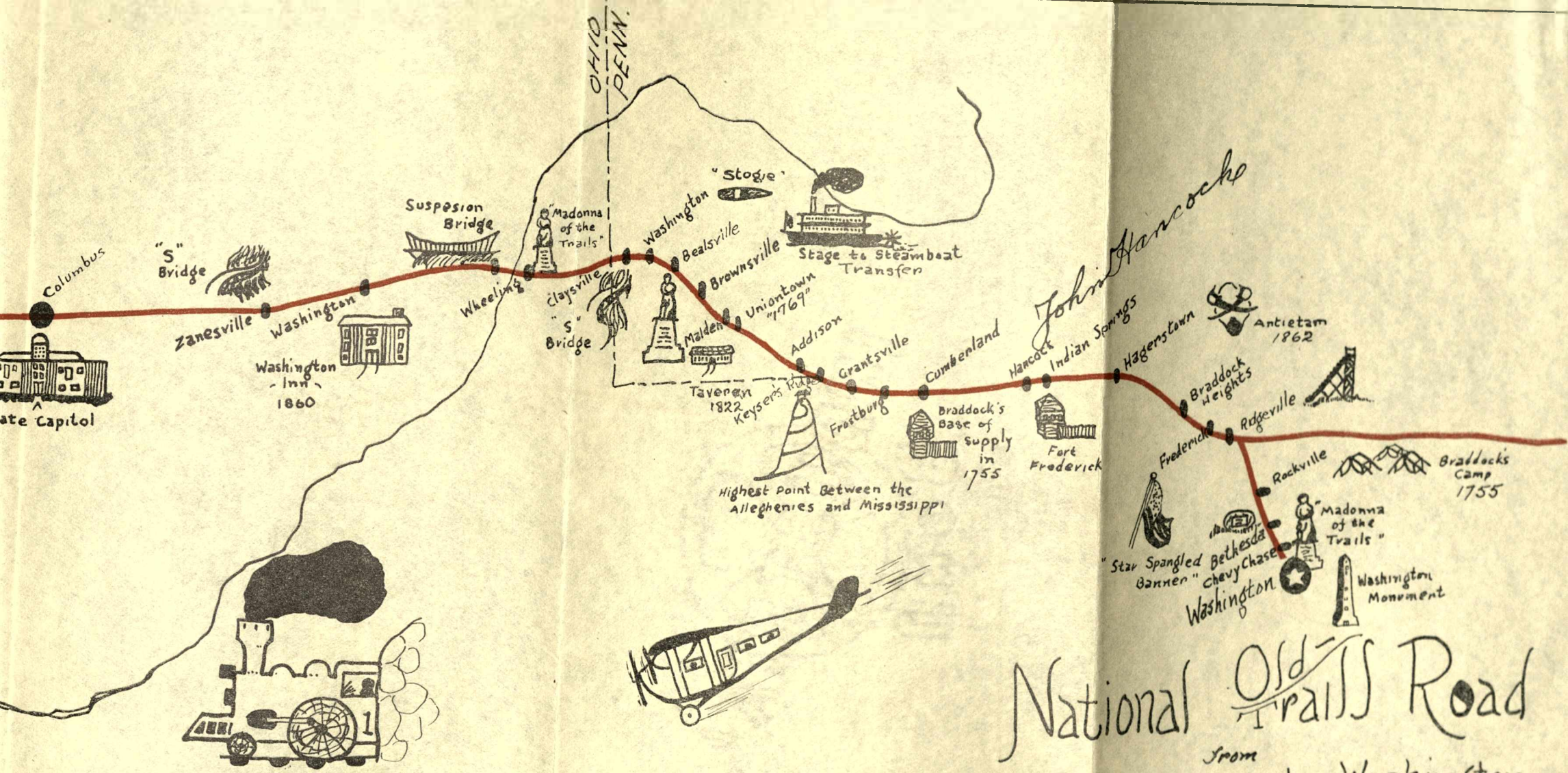
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- 618.0—Malden.** Three miles west of Uniontown, the old tavern, 64.5 still used, was built in 1822 and 1830.
- 621.0—Uniontown.** Settled in 1769. First tavern kept here in 67.5 1781. Laurel Hill up to the Summit is a grade of 6% to 10% the same as Pike's Peak. It is the steepest mountain east of the Mississippi. One mile from the crest is the famous watering trough. William Downard lived here in a stone house (only the foundations are seen now) and kept the watering trough in good condition during the first years of 1800.
- 626.0—Summit House.** A hotel of fashion for over fifty years. 5.0 New building constructed of mountain stone and cement was built in 1907. Two miles to the north, Gen. George Washington fought his first battle defeating the French Captain Jumonville. Summit is 2500 feet high and is halfway between Columbus, Ohio and Washington, D. C. From here the Road followed the Indian trail, Washington's road, Braddock's road and later called the Cumberland road, to Cumberland, Md.
- 630.0—Braddock's Grave.** General Edward Braddock, who was 9.0 killed by the French and Indians in 1755 was buried near by the side of the road and near the old tavern "Braddock's Run House" in which he died.
- 632.5—Fort Necessity.** George Washington surrendered to the 11.5 French and Indians July 4, 1754. Remnants of the fort may be visited one mile to the right of the road.
- 646.5—Addison, Pa.** Toll house maintained by the D. A. R. 25.5 Seven miles to Maryland. 172 miles of this historic road passed through this state.
- 632.5—Keyser's Ridge.** The second highest point of the moun- 31.5 tains, 2900 feet high. Standing on the right of the road a panorama of three states is seen, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. Famous old tavern, called "Stoddard House" was here. Negro Mountain. The highest peak between the coast and the Rocky mountains. 2900 feet in elevation.
- 658.0—Grantsville.** In 1755, Gen. Braddock's army crossed the 37.0 Castleman River near here. The fine stone bridge was built in 1812.
- 672.5—Frostburg.** An old tavern, "Highland Hall House" was 51.5 converted in 1850 by the Roman Catholic Church for its use. Big Savage Mountain has a fourteen mile grade descending 2200 feet to "The Narrows".
- 684.0—Cumberland.** The Cumberland Road connected with the 63.0 National Pike in this town. Gen. Braddock's supply base was here at Fort Cumberland, the site of the present city. The old canal may still be seen. Cumberland to Hagerstown, the road climbs over six mountains.
- 722.0—Hancock.** Named for John Hancock, Signer of the 101.5 Declaration of Independence. Indian Spring. Two miles east is Old Fort Frederick.
- 749.0—Hagerstown.** Battlefield of Antietam is south of the 128.0 town. Prominent town as a station on the stage lines.
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- Washington County Free Library organized the first county library in the U. S. in 1902, and had the first "Book-wagon" to travel through the county serving patrons.
- 760.0—**South Mountain.** Three boulders mark scene of battle
11.0 fought here in Sept. 1862.
- 770.0—**Braddock Heights.** Spring called by the same name.
21.0 Observatory from which a view of four states may be obtained.
- 775.5—**Frederick.** Where Barbara Frietchie lived. Poem about
26.5 her by John Greenleaf Whittier. The story is not credited by historians because the troops did not pass her house. The house is marked with a tablet. In the Francis Scott Key hotel hangs a framed newspaper giving the facts. Monument to her in the cemetery. Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner" is buried here, his birthplace.
William Tyler Page, author of the "American's Creed" was born here in Frederick.
- 778.5—**Jug Bridge.** Three miles east. Built soon after the
29.5 Revolutionary War. Fifty one miles from here to Washington, through
- 784.5—**Ridgeville.** The road continues to the cities of Baltimore
40.5 and New York, but the road to the right follows the old Braddock Road to
- 807.5—**Rockville.** Braddock army made the first encampment
63.5 here in 1755. Near here at the old Hungerford's tavern, in 1776, the first resolutions denouncing the Act of Great Britain in closing the Port of Boston, were passed. Or thru Urbana and Clarksburg to Rockville, it is 28.4 miles this road being nine miles shorter than thru Ridgeville.
- 815.5—**Bethseda.** The Madonna of the Trail stands on ground
71.5 at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Montgomery Lane. Over this road, Major General Edward Braddock lead his army, April 14, 1755 on his way to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).
- 817.5—**Chevy Chase.** In the circle is a boulder with the tablet
73.5 giving the information that Col. Joseph Belt (died 1761), built the Chevy Chase Manor House in 1725 which stood four hundred yards to the south. The house was razed in 1907 although still in excellent condition, making way for modern improvements.
- 822.0—**Washington, D. C.** The city beautiful planned by Major
78.0 L'Enfant with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson's assistance. The Zero stone in the plaza of the White House is the beginning for survey measurements and the goal of our trail over the historic National Old Trails Road. Thomas Nelson Page in his "Washington and its Romance", says:
"The Capitals of most countries are the especial pride of their people * * * Nature, prodigal of gracious slope and curve and tone, has endowed it with perhaps, more charm than any other National Capital."
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ILLINOIS
INDIANA

INDIANA
OHIO





National Old Trails Road
From
St. Louis to Washington
by
Earle Prater